

SC NAACP v. Alexander,
D.S.C. Case No. 3:21-cv-03302-MGL-TJH-RMG

EXHIBIT C

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8 Transcription of Audio Files

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1 (Beginning of Audio Recording)

2 MALE VOICE: Members of the Senate and
3 guests will please rise, as we receive our
4 distinguished president.

5 (End of Audio Recording)

6 SENATE PRESIDENT: The Senate will
7 please come to order. Members and guests
8 will remain standing while we are led in our
9 devotion by the chaplain followed by the
10 pledge of allegiance. Chaplain St. John?

11 DR. JAMES ST. JOHN: Surely, Isaiah
12 puts it all into clear focus, as he said,
13 "Come now, let us reason together says the
14 Lord," from Isaiah Chapter 1, verse 18. Let
15 us pray.

16 Gracious God, once again, as these
17 Senators gather in session to deal with
18 additional unfinished business, we ask you to
19 bless them and their staff members, as you
20 alone can. Grant to these servants the
21 wisdom and stamina they need to continue
22 carrying out the work of our state,
23 celebrating your presence here, of course,
24 and using their collective wisdom to benefit
25 each and every South Carolinian. For, as we

1 all well know, the needs of so many of our
2 citizens cry out for the best efforts that
3 these senators can offer.

4 Therefore, truly, dear God, guide and
5 lead the members of this body, as they reason
6 together. All this we humbly pray in your
7 wondrous and loving name, oh, Lord. Amen.

8 MULTIPLE VOICES: I pledge allegiance
9 to the flag of the United States of America
10 and to the republic for which it stands, one
11 nation under God, indivisible, with liberty
12 and justice for all.

13 SENATE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Members
14 and guests, please be seated. Are there any
15 petitions, memorials, presentments of grand
16 jury or other such like paper? The Clerk
17 will read.

18 SENATE CLERK: Message from the
19 Governor, Mr. President. Members of the
20 Senate, I'm transmitting here with the
21 following appointments for confirmation.
22 These appointments are made with advice and
23 consent of the Senate and, therefore,
24 submitted for your consideration. Statewide
25 appointment member of the State Board of

1 Medical Examiners, Veterinary Medical
2 Examiners, Ms. Tracy Tate (phonetic) of
3 Wagoner.

4 SENATE PRESIDENT: Ag Committee,
5 Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee.

6 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Juvenile
7 Parole Board, Dr. Patrick A. Dicks (phonetic)
8 of Williston.

9 SENATE PRESIDENT: Corrections and
10 Penology.

11 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Juvenile
12 Parole Board, Pastor Tony A. Foster of
13 Greenwood.

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: Corrections and
15 Penology.

16 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment of a
17 member to the State Board of Technical and
18 Comprehensive Education, Mr. Ralph A. Odom,
19 Jr. of Rock Hill.

20 SENATE PRESIDENT: Education
21 Committee.

22 SENATE CLERK: Member of the
23 Commission on Higher Education, Mr. Doug A.
24 Snyder of Charleston.

25 SENATE PRESIDENT: Education

1 Committee.

2 SENATE CLERK: Member of the State
3 Board of Technical and Comprehensive
4 Education, Mr. William H. Floyd, III, of
5 Lexington.

6 SENATE PRESIDENT: Education
7 Committee.

8 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment of member
9 of the South Carolina Commission for the
10 Blind, Mr. Peter A. Smith of Charleston.

11 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veteran
12 Services.

13 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Board of
14 Trustees of the Veterans Trust Fund of South
15 Carolina, Ms. Brenda Lopez Stewart of
16 Clinton.

17 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veterans
18 Services.

19 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Board of
20 Trustees of the Veterans Trust Fund of South
21 Carolina, Mr. Shawn T. Pinkston (phonetic) of
22 Charleston.

23 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veteran
24 Services.

25 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Board of

1 Trustees of the Veterans Trust Fund of South
2 Carolina, Mr. Melvin Poole (phonetic) of Rock
3 Hill.

4 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veterans
5 Services.

6 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Veterans
7 Trust Fund of South Carolina, Dr. Adad D.
8 Stewart (phonetic) of Columbia.

9 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veterans
10 Services.

11 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Board of
12 Trustees -- the Board -- member of the Board
13 of Trustees of the Veterans Trust Fund of
14 South Carolina, Mr. Steven L. Jones of Isle
15 of Palms.

16 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veterans
17 Services.

18 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment of a
19 member of the Board of Trustees of the
20 Veterans Trust Fund of South Carolina, Mr.
21 Jimmy E. Hawk of Irmo.

22 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veterans
23 Services.

24 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Veterans
25 Trust Fund of South Carolina, Mr. Nick A.

1 Mesenburg (phonetic) of Beaufort.

2 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veterans
3 Services.

4 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Veterans
5 Trust Fund of South Carolina, major David E.
6 Finney (phonetic) of Piedmont.

7 SENATE PRESIDENT: Family and Veterans
8 Services.

9 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment of member
10 to the South Carolina Residential Builders,
11 Mr. Howell J. Dillard of Greer.

12 SENATE PRESIDENT: Labor, Commerce,
13 and Industry.

14 SENATE CLERK: Member of the South
15 Carolina State Housing Finance and
16 Development Authority, Mr. James G.
17 Fleischman (phonetic), II, of Columbia.

18 SENATE PRESIDENT: Labor, Commerce,
19 and Industry.

20 SENATE CLERK: Member of the State
21 Athletic Commission, Dr. Benson Garrick
22 Messer (phonetic) of Lexington.

23 SENATE PRESIDENT: Labor, Commerce,
24 and Industry.

25 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment of member

1 of the Jobs Economic Development Authority,
2 Mr. Michael W. Knicks (phonetic) of
3 Greenwood.

4 SENATE PRESIDENT: Labor, Commerce,
5 and Industry.

6 SENATE CLERK: Appointment of a member
7 to the Jobs Economic Development Authority,
8 3rd Congressional District, Mr. Richard K.
9 Blackwell of Seneca.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: Labor, Commerce,
11 and Industry.

12 SENATE CLERK: Member of the South
13 Carolina Panel for Dietetics, Mr. Robert
14 Duffle Hoffman (phonetic) of Lancaster.

15 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
16 Committee.

17 SENATE CLERK: Appointment of member
18 to Donate Life South Carolina, Mr. Jason R.
19 Chesney (phonetic) of Simpsonville.

20 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs.

21 SENATE CLERK: Member of the South
22 Carolina Board of Long-term Healthcare
23 Administrators, Mr. Edward G. Burton
24 (phonetic) of Greer.

25 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs

1 Committee.

2 SENATE CLERK: Member of Donate Life
3 South Carolina, Ms. Abbey Mason (phonetic) of
4 Mount Pleasant.

5 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
6 Committee.

7 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment member of
8 the State Board of Nursing, Mrs. Janella D.
9 Davis (phonetic) of Myrtle Beach.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
11 Committee.

12 SENATE CLERK: Appointment of member
13 to the State Board of Nursing, Mrs. Lindsay
14 I. Michum (phonetic) of Camden.

15 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
16 Committee.

17 SENATE CLERK: Appointment of a member
18 to Donate Life South Carolina, Mr. Curtis A.
19 Nelson of Greer.

20 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
21 Committee.

22 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment South
23 Carolina Mental Health Commission, Mr. L.
24 Gregory Pierce, Jr., of Columbia.

25 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs

1 Committee.

2 SENATE CLERK: Appointment to the
3 member of the Mental Health Commission, Dr.
4 Carl Edison Jones (phonetic) of Orangeburg.
5 Excuse me.

6 SENATE PRESIDENT: No problem.
7 Medical Affairs Committee.

8 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment to the
9 Mental Health Commission, Mr. Bobby H. Mann,
10 Jr., of Taylors.

11 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
12 Committee.

13 SENATE CLERK: Appointment to the
14 Member -- Commission on Disabilities and
15 Special Needs, Mrs. Michelle M. Woodhead
16 (phonetic) of York.

17 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
18 Committee.

19 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment member of
20 the Commission on Disabilities and Special
21 Needs, Mr. Barry D. Malfrus (phonetic) of
22 Beaufort.

23 SENATE PRESIDENT: Medical Affairs
24 Committee.

25 SENATE CLERK: Appointment to the

1 Commission on Women, Ms. Joy R. Cox of
2 Fountain Inn.

3 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
4 Committee.

5 SENATE CLERK: Reappointment South
6 Carolina Worker's Compensation Commission at
7 large, Ms. Meldielle James (phonetic) of
8 Lexington.

9 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
10 Committee.

11 SENATE CLERK: Member of the State
12 Human Affairs Commission, Ms. Sharon L.
13 Sellers of Santee.

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
15 Committee.

16 SENATE CLERK: Member of the
17 Commission on Women, Reverend Elizabeth Joy
18 Inns (phonetic) of Rock Hill.

19 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
20 Committee.

21 SENATE CLERK: Member of the State
22 Human Affairs Commission, Mr. Steven E. Hall
23 (phonetic) of Greenville.

24 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
25 Committee.

1 SENATE CLERK: Member of the
2 Commission on Women, Mrs. Carol L. Herring
3 (phonetic) of Rock Hill.

4 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
5 Committee.

6 SENATE CLERK: Member of the State
7 Human Affairs Commission, Ms. Mary M. Amaniti
8 (phonetic) of Hilton Head.

9 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
10 Committee.

11 SENATE CLERK: Member of State Human
12 Affairs Commission, Mrs. Kimberly P. Snipes
13 (phonetic) of Irmo.

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
15 Committee.

16 SENATE CLERK: Member, Commission on
17 Woman, Mrs. Erin Mosely (phonetic) of
18 Chester.

19 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
20 Committee.

21 SENATE CLERK: Member of the
22 Commission on Women, Mrs. Renada Christina
23 Desilva (phonetic) of Summerville.

24 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
25 Committee.

1 SENATE CLERK: Member of the
2 Transportation Commission, Mr. William B.
3 Dukes (phonetic) of Chapin.

4 SENATE PRESIDENT: Transportation
5 Committee.

6 SENATE CLERK: Member of the State
7 Board of Financial Institutions, Mr. James
8 Daniel Walters of Simpsonville.

9 SENATE PRESIDENT: Banking and
10 Insurance.

11 SENATE CLERK: Member of the
12 Commission on Women, Mrs. Aimee Fuse
13 (phonetic) of Tega Cay.

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
15 Committee.

16 SENATE CLERK: Member of the Juvenile
17 Parole Board, Mrs. Kathleen Love of
18 Summerville.

19 SENATE PRESIDENT: Corrections
20 Committee. We have no further
21 communications. Therefore, we are on the
22 introduction of new bills and resolutions.
23 The clerk will read.

24 SENATE CLERK: The introduction of a
25 bill by Senator Mark (inaudible). It's a

1 code related to conditions of eligibility for
2 unemployment benefits to provide that a
3 person separated from employment for defying
4 a COVID-19 vaccine -- vaccine mandate be
5 eligible for unemployment benefits.

6 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
7 Spartanburg, for what purpose do you rise?

8 SENATOR: To be heard briefly with
9 introductory remarks.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: You're recognized
11 for introductory remarks up to three minutes.

12 SENATOR: Thank you, Mr. President,
13 Members of the Senate. This bill, basically,
14 we're dealing with a lot right now, Senator
15 from Greenville, with people being
16 potentially forced to choose between taking a
17 COVID shot and keeping their job. So what
18 this does is if some of our constituents fall
19 into the category where they're not going to
20 take a shot and they lose their job, this
21 makes them eligible for unemployment benefits
22 so there's no questions about it. So I'd
23 appreciate any co-sponsors, and that's all I
24 have, Mr. President. Thank you.

25 SENATE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator

1 from Greenville, for what purpose do you
2 rise?

3 SENATOR: Unanimous consent to be a
4 co-sponsor.

5 SENATE PRESIDENT: So added. Senator
6 from Pickens, for what purpose do you rise?

7 SENATOR: To be added as a co-sponsor.

8 SENATE PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator from
9 Anderson?

10 SENATOR: To be added as a co-sponsor.

11 SENATE PRESIDENT: As co-sponsors.

12 SENATOR: Consent to be a co-sponsor,
13 please.

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: And if the others
15 can notify the desk, the bill will be
16 referred to the Judiciary Committee.

17 SENATE CLERK: Introduction of a bill
18 by Senator Turner and others, (inaudible)
19 code adds a section to provide necessary
20 definitions to provide for youth patriotic
21 societies may address public school students
22 during patriotism week, about how involvement
23 in the youth patriotic society may further
24 the educational interest and civic
25 involvement of the students.

1 SENATE PRESIDENT: Education
2 Committee.

3 SENATE CLERK: Introduction of a bill
4 by Senator Kimbrell and others. It's to
5 enact the South Carolina Jobs Creation and
6 Competitiveness Act of 2022. It repeals a
7 section of the code relating to the South
8 Carolina Income Tax Act and corporate license
9 fees, adds a chapter relating to income tax
10 to provide that the South Carolina taxable
11 income for individuals, estates, trusts, is
12 equal to three and one-half percent of the
13 difference between the federal taxable income
14 of the taxpayer and the state standard
15 deduction.

16 THE COURT: Senator from Spartanburg,
17 for what purpose do you rise?

18 SENATOR KIMBRELL: Mr. President, to
19 make brief introductory remarks.

20 SENATE PRESIDENT: You're recognized
21 to make introductory remarks up to three
22 minutes.

23 SENATOR KIMBRELL: Thank you, Mr.
24 President. Good morning, ladies and
25 gentlemen of the Senate. Just wanted to take

1 a stab here, as we get ready to go into the
2 new session at tax reform. I know a lot of
3 people in this body are interested in that.
4 During the course of the pandemic, we saw
5 that states in the southeast that performed
6 the best were states that did not have an
7 income tax or had income taxes lower than
8 ours.

9 So what this bill, in short, does is
10 it eliminates all corporate income taxes, LLC
11 taxes, past due taxes, sole proprietorships
12 to zero, reduces the effective rate of the
13 personal income tax from 7 percent down to
14 3.5, which is our effective rate anyways.
15 And the way that, you know, we have the same
16 rate on paper as New York. So by reducing
17 from 7 to 3.5 and closing the loopholes, we
18 don't really change the effective rate, but I
19 think it's a better sell, if you will, for
20 businesses moving to our state. And to
21 ensure that we pay for all of this, this bill
22 effectively closes essentially every loophole
23 as it pertains to sales taxes. So most sales
24 tax exemptions will no longer apply. So
25 there's something for everybody to hate and

1 to like about this tax reform package, and
2 it's my humble attempt to at least begin a
3 starting point. Senators Johnson and Senator
4 Talley and I talked about this a good bit
5 during the summer and felt this was an
6 interesting proposal to put forward to
7 finally significantly reduce the income tax
8 burden on South Carolina businesses and
9 families. Thank you, Mr. President.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.
11 The bill is referred to the Finance
12 Committee.

13 SENATE CLERK: Introduction of a bill
14 by Senator Bennett and others. It's to enact
15 the South Carolina Tax Policy Modernization
16 Act by amending the code relating to the
17 South Carolina Income Tax Act. It repeals a
18 section relating to the South Carolina Sales
19 and Use Tax Act.

20 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
21 Dorchester, for what purpose do you rise?

22 SENATOR: Some introductory remarks,
23 please.

24 SENATE PRESIDENT: You're recognized
25 for introductory remarks up to three minutes.

1 Senator from Clarendon, for what purpose do
2 you rise?

3 SENATOR: While the Senator is coming
4 forward, I would just like to ask for a point
5 of clarification. The Senator from
6 Spartanburg in his bill he mentioned that
7 Senator Johnson. I want the record to show
8 that he's talking about Senator Mike Johnson.

9 SENATE PRESIDENT: The desk is so
10 informed.

11 Senator from Dorchester is recognized.

12 SENATOR: Thank you, Mr. President.

13 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
14 Richmond, for what purpose do you rise?

15 SENATOR: Mr. President, just before
16 the Senator comes, would the Senator from
17 Clarendon -- you for a question. So this is
18 the Senator Johnson that used to work for the
19 tax revenue that's not for the bill, right?

20 SENATE PRESIDENT: The desk is so
21 notified.

22 SENATOR: This is the one who knows
23 more about South Carolina taxes?

24 SENATE PRESIDENT: The desk is so
25 notified.

1 SENATOR: I just want to clarify which
2 the Senator from Richmond.

3 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator -- Senator
4 from Clarendon.

5 SENATOR: Just for further -- for
6 clarification, this is the Senator Johnson
7 that currently still works for the Department
8 of Revenue. Thank you, absolutely. Thank
9 you, Senator Johnson.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
11 Dorchester is recognized.

12 SENATOR: Thank you, Mr. President.
13 Thank you, members, for taking a -- allowing
14 me to take a moment. Appreciate Senator from
15 Spartanburg's comments just a minute ago.
16 Great minds think alike.

17 This bill, if you'll recall, members,
18 is we had a conversation towards the end of
19 last session right here on the floor. It got
20 pretty detailed about the need for the
21 modernization of our tax policy in South
22 Carolina, a complete review and overhaul of
23 our tax situation, recognizing that our
24 income taxes are some of the highest in the
25 southeast, our property tax system is

1 designed for failure in small businesses and
2 non-residential homeowners. Sales taxes are
3 broken. Corporate income taxes are broken.
4 All of these different things work together
5 to generate or to in many cases block growth
6 and expansion, not only of individual
7 citizens in South Carolina, but the
8 businesses and entities that choose to do
9 business here.

10 What this bill commits to do is to
11 commit that the General Assembly is to look
12 at our problems in a comprehensive manner,
13 modernize our tax policy to be the most
14 efficient for our individual citizens, as
15 well as the entities that choose to do
16 business here. It is a comprehensive bill or
17 will be a comprehensive bill. Looks to -- to
18 take into consideration all of those factors
19 and not leave anyone behind. What I have
20 mentioned over and over and over again since
21 coming to the General Assembly and this body
22 is that when we attack our tax policy one bit
23 at a time, we continue to create the
24 Frankenstein's monster of squeezing that
25 balloon and creating a situation where we

1 build in ad hoc changes to the policies,
2 which ultimately create problems down the
3 road for other citizens and special interest.

4 So this is a bill that's designed to
5 take on a giant job of looking at our entire
6 system and making sure that we build
7 something that's going to create
8 opportunities for our state to grow and
9 flourish in the decades to go into the
10 future. Thank you.

11 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
12 Georgetown, for what purpose do you rise?
13 Does the Senator yield for a question?

14 SENATOR: Yes.

15 SENATOR 2: Yes. I heard you mention
16 property taxes. Is this the precursor or the
17 beginning of a look back at Act 388?

18 SENATOR: Senator, it is going to look
19 at the problems that we have with property
20 taxes. I will be the first to tell you, I've
21 said it many times from this podium, that I
22 think 388 was one of the worst pieces of
23 legislation ever passed. And there is going
24 to be a complicated process to fix and remedy
25 a lot of those problems, the unintended

1 consequences that 388 made. So I will
2 certainly say that whether or not it is a
3 repeal or a reduction of 388, it is certainly
4 going to be something that we are going to
5 fix our property tax situation.

6 SENATOR 2: And one more question from
7 me, Senator. You've likely heard me and
8 likely heard the senator from Charleston,
9 among other coastal senators, probably you --
10 I don't want to put words in your mouth --
11 talk about the unencumbered detrimental
12 growth in some cases.

13 SENATOR: Sure.

14 SENATOR 2: From people elsewhere that
15 are moving here. Are we also going to be
16 focusing on trying to figure out a way to
17 capture revenue from them while not hurting
18 our local folks?

19 SENATOR: Senator, what this will
20 allow us to do is look at our entire tax
21 policy comprehensively and where there are
22 opportunities for us to fix problems, we will
23 fix problems. What it is not designed to do
24 is create new problems or create new taxes.
25 So if we're looking to -- as a way to fund

1 more governmental spending, that's not what
2 this is intended to do. It's intended to fix
3 the system so that our citizens are paying
4 what we need to provide for governmental
5 services and nothing more and letting the
6 private sector succeed.

7 SENATOR 2: Mr. Speaker unanimous
8 consent, add me as a co-sponsor.

9 THE COURT: So ordered. Senator from
10 Spartanburg, what purpose do you rise?

11 SENATOR 3: To see if the Senator from
12 Dorchester would yield for a quick question.

13 SENATOR: I will.

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: The Senator yields
15 for a question.

16 SENATOR 3: Senator, first off , I
17 know we've had private conversations and that
18 you know I applaud your efforts here in
19 trying to not do the piece meal thing because
20 that's what's gotten this General Assembly in
21 the position it's in. But the question I
22 have for you today is don't you think right
23 now while we're in, quote, "good financial
24 times," is the right time to fix the tax
25 policy and the -- the structure that we have

1 in the State?

2 SENATOR: Senator, I would argue that
3 there's never a bad time to fix a poor
4 policy, but you're absolutely right. This is
5 an absolute opportune time for us to do that.

6 SENATOR 3: Well, and the reason I say
7 that is because any time that the General
8 Assembly -- you know, I wasn't here when 388
9 was passed, but I've lived through some of
10 the negatives on that. But any time the
11 General Assembly tackles an issue, there's
12 always going to be potentially for somebody
13 to be viewed as their ox getting gored.
14 Correct?

15 SENATOR: That's correct.

16 SENATOR 3: So the reason I mentioned
17 the good times is while we're in good
18 financial times, we could always look at
19 easing some of those burdens at having to
20 transition to fix it correctly and fix it one
21 time for good.

22 SENATOR: Senator, you're exactly
23 right, and, you know, I'll be the first to
24 admit that this is going to be a large task
25 for us to do. And because it's a large task

1 and because there's a lot of constituencies,
2 which need to be at the table and involved in
3 that process, I wouldn't envision a scenario
4 where we flip the switch and tomorrow we're
5 operating under a completely different tax
6 policy than we were today. I think it's
7 absolutely going to be something that you
8 ease into over a period of time. Thank you
9 for that.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
11 Sumter, what purpose do you rise?

12 SENATOR 4: (inaudible) consent
13 request, Mr. President.

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: State your request.

15 SENATOR 4: To be added as a co-
16 sponsor.

17 SENATE PRESIDENT: So ordered.
18 Senator from Pickens, what purpose do you
19 rise?

20 SENATOR 5: Unanimous consent to be
21 added as a co-sponsor.

22 SENATE PRESIDENT: So ordered without
23 objection.

24 SENATOR 5: Thank you, Mr. President.

25 SENATE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator

1 for Dorchester. The bill is referred to the
2 Finance Committee. The clerk will read. Oh,
3 I'm sorry. Senator from Kershaw.

4 SENATOR 5: Consent to be added as a
5 co-sponsor to the bill.

6 SENATE PRESIDENT: Without objection.
7 Thank you. The reading clerk will read.

8 SENATE CLERK: Introduction of a bill
9 by Senator Davis that adds a section to the
10 code to provide an additional one-time
11 payment to members of the Police Officers
12 Retirement System who are killed in the line
13 of duty and set forth the amount of the
14 payment depending on the circumstances of
15 their death.

16 SENATE PRESIDENT: Finance Committee.

17 SENATE CLERK: Introduction of a bill
18 by Senator Shealy. It amends the code
19 relating to general provisions concerning
20 domestic violence, adds a section of the code
21 to create the offense of coercive control
22 over another person to provide examples of
23 the types of behavior and evidence that may
24 be used to support the offense to provide a
25 penalty and define necessary terms.

1 SENATE PRESIDENT: The bill is
2 referred to the Judiciary Committee.

3 SENATE PRESIDENT: The bill is
4 referred to the judiciary committee.

5 SENATE CLERK: Further introduction of
6 a bill by Senator Shealy. It amends the code
7 relating to pleading and trial. Adds a
8 section of the code to provide that in a
9 criminal case or proceeding in which a
10 Defendant is accused of criminal domestic
11 violence or criminal domestic violence of a
12 high and aggravated nature, a Court may admit
13 evidence that the Defendant previously
14 committed another violation of such an
15 offense.

16 SENATE PRESIDENT: Judiciary
17 Committee.

18 SENATE CLERK: Introduction of a bill
19 by Senator Harpootlian. It amends a code
20 related to membership of the Worker's
21 Compensation Commission to provide for
22 qualification to serve as a commissioner
23 amending further sections relating to
24 commissioner salaries to provide that
25 commissioners are entitled to judicial

1 retirement as provided under the provisions
2 of the code.

3 SENATE PRESIDENT: The bill is
4 referred to the judiciary committee. Senator
5 from Charleston, what purpose do you rise?

6 SENATOR: To be heard on a matter of
7 personal interest.

8 SENATE PRESIDENT: The Senator from
9 Charleston is recognized for a point of
10 personal interest up to -- up to five
11 minutes.

12 SENATOR KIMPSON: Thank you. Thank
13 you, Mr. President. I just got back from the
14 White House. I had the opportunity to go to
15 the White House for the tree lighting
16 ceremony. We listened to Patty Labelle.
17 Heard from musicians from all across the
18 country, LL Cool J. I believe Senator --
19 Senator from Clarendon you've still got a
20 Kango (phonetic). LL Cool J was the host,
21 but I bring good news from Washington, DC.
22 The President Joseph Robin Biden, who was by
23 the way elected by more votes than any
24 president in the United States history.
25 That's -- these are facts. These are facts.

1 And so on last week we learned that
2 the unemployment rate is now 4.2 percent.
3 That is down by historic full two percentage
4 points just since this president, President
5 Biden, took office. In total, job creation
6 in the first ten months of the President's
7 administration is about 6 million jobs, a
8 record -- a record for a new president.
9 That's good news. Wages are up, and thanks
10 to the American Rescue Plan and the -- the
11 President and the Congressional Democrats, we
12 delivered significant -- we just heard a lot
13 about taxes, we delivered significant tax
14 cuts for families raising kids, tax cuts and
15 raising wages for middle class families means
16 that Americans on average have about \$100
17 more in their pockets than they did last
18 year.

19 So I'm going to take one more minute
20 to underscore what the American Rescue Plan
21 means, and we already know that there was a
22 lot of money sent from DC in the Coronavirus
23 relief fund, a lot of money. And we're
24 talking about spending it. I submit that we
25 should spend the money where the services are

1 needed.

2 We've got issues at the Department of
3 Social Services, issues with mental health,
4 and our teachers need to make a livable wage
5 with good benefits. So the American Rescue
6 Plan, the money that's coming to the State of
7 South Carolina, in total federal funding
8 that's come into the state house of South
9 Carolina due to President Joseph Biden and
10 the Congressional Democrats will be about \$13
11 billion. That's entire -- bigger than our
12 entire state budget, and I think we have a
13 prudent obligation to make sure that we use
14 those funds wisely for the working class
15 families of our state. I'm all for tax
16 relief but not at the expense of our working
17 class families.

18 There's a lot of information that's
19 going to be coming out from Capitol Hill.
20 We've got infrastructure, and I'm not getting
21 in front of the Chairman of Finance because I
22 don't want him to put his arm around me, but
23 we've got infrastructure money coming to the
24 state as well, which will mean billions --
25 billions for our roads, our bridges, and our

1 infrastructure.

2 And so since I was in Washington, DC,
3 I just thought I would take this opportunity
4 -- not a victory lap, just bringing you
5 information from the White House and I will
6 continue to do so this year so everybody's
7 clear what the White House and this president
8 is sending to the State of South Carolina so
9 that we can in prudent fashion exercising our
10 fiduciary obligations spend it wisely for the
11 people of South Carolina. Thank you, Mr.
12 President.

13 SENATE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator
14 from Charleston. The desk is clear. Are
15 there any requests for local bills.

16 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Mr. President.

17 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
18 Marion.

19 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr.
20 President. I would like to call up S909,
21 local bill, to Marion County.

22 SENATE PRESIDENT: S909 on page 2 of
23 your calendar. I ask that the clerk would
24 read.

25 SENATE CLERK: This is a bill to

1 authorize the Marion County Counsel to
2 postpone for one additional year the
3 implementation of its county-wide property
4 tax equalization and reassessment program.

5 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Mr. President?

6 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
7 Marion?

8 SENATOR WILLIAMS: I would ask for
9 second read into that bill, please.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: The question is
11 second reading of the bill. All in favor,
12 please say "aye." Any opposed? Ayes have
13 it. So ordered.

14 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Mr. President?

15 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
16 Marion.

17 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Unanimous consent
18 request.

19 SENATE PRESIDENT: State your request,
20 please.

21 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Would like to give
22 that bill automatic third reading tomorrow.

23 SENATE PRESIDENT: Unanimous consent
24 request to give S909 on page 2 by the Senator
25 from Marion, third reading, a local bill,

1 tomorrow. Without objection, so ordered.

2 Thank you.

3 Senator from Edgefield?

4 SENATOR MASSEY: If there -- if there
5 are no other requests for local bills, I
6 wanted to be asked to be recognized on a
7 point of personal interest.

8 SENATE PRESIDENT: Okay. One more
9 time, any local bills. Senator from
10 Orangeburg?

11 SENATOR HUTTO: Thank you, Mr.
12 President. I'd like to call up S912.

13 SENATE PRESIDENT: S912 on page 3 of
14 your calendar.

15 SENATOR HUTTO: Yes, sir.

16 SENATE PRESIDENT: The clerk will
17 read.

18 SENATE CLERK: This is a bill relating
19 to the limit on cash reserves that may be
20 maintained by Dorchester County School
21 Districts 2 and 4 so as to provide that the
22 limit on cash reserve does not apply to
23 Dorchester County School District 4 in Fiscal
24 Year 2021/2022.

25 SENATE PRESIDENT: The question is

1 second.

2 Senator from Spartanburg, what purpose
3 do you rise?

4 SENATOR: See if the Senator from
5 Orangeburg would yield briefly.

6 SENATE PRESIDENT: For a question?

7 SENATOR: Yes, sir.

8 SENATE PRESIDENT: For a question.

9 SENATOR: Senator, do you mind just
10 giving a brief explanation of what this is
11 doing?

12 SENATOR: Some years ago, Dorchester
13 County School District placed a cap on how
14 much funds that a school district could
15 actually have on -- on hand or in reserves,
16 and with the present financial situation in
17 South Carolina and with school districts, it
18 is now becoming a hindrance to particularly
19 District Number 4 in Dorchester County. And
20 the District has asked that that cap be
21 lifted for the 2021/2022 school term, and
22 that's basically what this is all about.

23 SENATOR: Thank you.

24 SENATE PRESIDENT: The question is the
25 second reading of the bill. All in favor say

1 "aye". All opposed "no". Second reading.

2 SENATOR: Mr. President --

3 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
4 (inaudible).

5 SENATOR: -- I ask that this bill be
6 given third reading on tomorrow.

7 SENATE PRESIDENT: Unanimous consent
8 for S912 to have aa third reading tomorrow.
9 Is there any objection? Hearing none, so
10 ordered. Thank you.

11 Senator from Edgefield -- are there
12 any other requests for local bills? Hearing
13 none, Senator from Edgefield. Recognized on
14 a point of personal interest up to five
15 minutes. Thank you, sir.

16 SENATOR MASSEY: Thank you, Mr.
17 President. One of my favorite movie lines
18 comes from the movie Saving Private Ryan, and
19 most of us have probably seen that movie, if
20 you can make it past the first 25 minutes
21 scene of the D-Day sequence, which is pretty
22 horrific. But if you haven't seen it, you're
23 probably familiar with it, but it's, of
24 course, about the allied invasion of Europe
25 in World War 2. And the story, there's a

1 story embedded in that movie, which actually
2 is based or at least inspired by -- by true
3 events. But the -- the story within the
4 story is you've got a -- a small town farm
5 boy who has three brothers who are also
6 serving in the war. Those three brothers are
7 killed, and when General Marshall finds out
8 about it, he sends instructions that they
9 should go get the surviving son to bring him
10 home.

11 And so the movie follows this small
12 group of American soldiers in their search
13 for Private Ryan to bring him home. And that
14 small group is led by a captain who's played
15 by Tom Hanks. The -- Private Ryan is played
16 by Matt Damon, and the movie follows them,
17 and it's -- it's pretty brutal at times, if
18 you've watched it. But, of course, war is
19 brutal.

20 And as they're going along in search
21 of Private Ryan this small group of American
22 soldiers suffers a number of losses along the
23 way. And finally you get to near the end of
24 the movie, and they -- they find Private
25 Ryan. And they tell him the situation and

1 they tell him he's going home. But the
2 Germans are advancing, and so Private Ryan
3 doesn't want to leave his unit. So they all
4 decide that they're going to stay there and
5 they're going to fight and try to hold this
6 bridge in France. And as it -- as it goes
7 along, the Captain who is played by Tom Hanks
8 is shot several times. He is fatally
9 wounded, and Private Ryan comes up to him, as
10 he's sitting on the bridge. And the Captain
11 played by Tom Hanks is trying to say
12 something, but he's -- he's severely injured.
13 He can't speak. He can only whisper, and so
14 Matt Damon leans down to him to where he puts
15 his ear right up to Tom Hanks' mouth so he
16 can hear him.

17 And Tom Hanks' character says earn
18 this. Earn it. That's one of my favorite
19 lines in movies because it says -- it says so
20 much. I thought about that movie this
21 morning, and I thought about that sequence of
22 events because today is a very important day.
23 It is a day that unfortunately we forget
24 about lots of times. But today is the date
25 that would live in infamy. It is the day

1 that the United States of America was
2 suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval
3 and air forces from the Empire of Japan at
4 Pearl Harbor. 2,403 Americans were killed at
5 Pearl Harbor that day. 1,178 were injured.
6 And as we all know, that attack led to
7 America's entry into World War 2 where more
8 than 420,000 Americans would die and over
9 670,000 Americans would be wounded.

10 Now, if you take -- that's a -- those
11 are big numbers, but if you take those
12 numbers and compare them to what the
13 population of the United States was in 1941,
14 and then you compare it to what it would be
15 today, y'all we're talking about over a
16 million and 40,000 boys and girls killed
17 today is what that would work out to be, over
18 1.6 million boys and girls were wounded, many
19 severely.

20 If we had those types of numbers in
21 combat today and we were seeing it every day
22 in social media, imagine what the response
23 would be, what the impact would be. I've
24 thought about that some today and then I've
25 also thought that, you know, with Senator

1 Ledderman's passing, there is now no one in
2 this Senate who was alive during World War 2.

3 It is easy, then, to forget and not
4 remember. I think to many of us it seems
5 like ancient history, but it really wasn't
6 that long ago, 80 years ago today, right
7 about -- well, in about another hour and a
8 half, 80 years ago was when the attacks
9 began, 7:48 Hawaiian Standard Time. They're
10 about five hours behind us.

11 I thought -- I thought about that and
12 just how important it is, I think, that we
13 remember. And -- and not only remember that
14 attack and what happened, but also the
15 sacrifice, the loss, what the consequences of
16 that were, and how -- look, over the -- over
17 the course of American history we have not
18 been perfect. It's pretty clear we've
19 screwed up a lot. The sins of the South or
20 even the country as a whole are well-
21 documented. It's amazing what people will do
22 to other people and just how mean and bad
23 people can be.

24 Now, we're humans, our predecessors
25 were humans, they messed up, they made some

1 mistakes, some of them intentionally. But,
2 man, we've done a lot of things right. We've
3 done a lot of really good things in this
4 country. I would -- I would say that there
5 are probably very few of the poorest among us
6 who would trade their lot in life for the
7 average American in 1941. We've made a lot
8 of improvements. We've made a lot of
9 advancements. Those are good things.

10 I think it's important that we
11 remember that but it's also important for us
12 to remember, I think, that we are the heirs
13 of that greatest generation, of those -- I
14 said earlier boys and girls. They really
15 were, right? I mean they were boys and girls
16 who literally saved the world.

17 And I do think it's important for us
18 to remember that so that we will be worthy of
19 that which they bequeathed to us and that we
20 will act accordingly. We have -- y'all, it's
21 been left to us. For those of us here, South
22 Carolina is literally in our hands. It's
23 been left to us to shape it, to mold it, to
24 try to improve it to better the lives of
25 those who were here. We have inherited

1 something very rare. We have -- we are a
2 blessed people. It's important for us to
3 remember those sacrifices, especially when we
4 have so few people who are now able to give
5 us the personal first-hand testimony of it.

6 I read yesterday that last year was
7 the first year that there were no Pearl
8 Harbor survivors who returned for Pearl
9 Harbor Day. Most of them had passed. Those
10 who were still living, they were too sick or
11 infirmed to travel. This year there is a
12 gentleman who is 101, who they are making
13 arrangements for him to go back. So he will
14 be the only one there who was there that day.

15 And what I've heard is there are fewer
16 than 200,000 World War 2 veterans left in the
17 United States. Without having that first-
18 hand account, it is easy for us to forget.
19 It's easy for us to focus on whatever is here
20 and now, not to look back at the sacrifices
21 that were made, all that was won, all that
22 has been given to us and that has been
23 entrusted to us.

24 It's important, I think, for us to
25 remember those things and that we take those

1 things seriously. 420,000 American boys and
2 girls killed, 670,000 severely injured.
3 Today we're talking about well over 2.5
4 million people is what that would account to.
5 What they endured, I wonder sometimes whether
6 we could endure it, whether we would be -- be
7 able to stand up for something like that.

8 I appreciate you listening to me. I
9 wanted to take a few minutes to remember that
10 because I think especially today it's 80
11 years on, and what that led to, it was a
12 completely different world after that. Much
13 of what we deal with today is a result of
14 what happened, the consequences that came
15 from that -- that attack on Pearl Harbor, how
16 -- how the United States was crafted
17 thereafter.

18 There are definitely some bad, but
19 there was a lot of good, too. We are a
20 blessed people. We should remember that, and
21 we should act -- look, we're going to
22 disagree. We're going to -- we're going to
23 argue. We're going to fight sometimes,
24 hopefully not today, but we're going to fight
25 sometimes. But we are the heirs from that

1 generation. We've been blessed, and it's our
2 task to make the best of it. Thank you, Mr.
3 President.

4 SENATE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator
5 from Edgefield.

6 Senator from Colleton (phonetic), what
7 purpose do you rise?

8 SENATOR: To ask that the words of the
9 Senator be placed in the journal.

10 SENATE PRESIDENT: Unanimous consent
11 request that the words be placed in the
12 journal.

13 SENATOR: And, Mr. President --

14 SENATE PRESIDENT: Without -- excuse
15 me, without objection. Senator from
16 Colleton?

17 SENATOR: I wish to be heard on a
18 personal reflection.

19 SENATE PRESIDENT: Point of personal
20 interest --

21 SENATOR: Yes, I knew it was
22 something.

23 SENATE PRESIDENT: -- up to five --
24 sorry, recognize for up to five minutes.

25 SENATOR: I want to thank the Senator

1 from Edgefield for those words. Well-taken.
2 I wasn't sure whether or not I would stand up
3 for this moment and give some concerns that
4 I've had, but after hearing what you said, I
5 take it at heart and I'm reminded of
6 something my dad always tried to beat into
7 us, Proverbs, to whom much is given, much is
8 required.

9 We do have heavy responsibility in the
10 Senate, and that's why I wanted to make these
11 comments. COVID brought out a lot out of
12 South Carolina. It showed us what we were
13 made of and how resilient we could be as a
14 people, and it made all of us think of what
15 our responsibilities are to our constituents.
16 Since coming into the Senate, I've known that
17 we lacked a lot in South Carolina but I knew
18 that we had a whole lot more than a lot of
19 people give us credit for. It concerned me
20 that during COVID it showed a lot of those
21 things that we have yet to work on in the
22 Senate.

23 And one of those it showed was when we
24 had to educate our children, it showed the
25 inadequacies of our infrastructure in

1 broadband, and it also showed our
2 inadequacies in healthcare to rural South
3 Carolina. These are two things that -- and I
4 want Medical Affairs and Judiciary to please
5 think of these two things as we move forward
6 and learn the lessons from COVID.

7 I know many of you have had these
8 complaints from your constituents that during
9 COVID our hospitals and our nursing homes you
10 couldn't get in to see your loved ones. If
11 you remember, when I first came into the
12 Senate I talked about my 90 -- I think she
13 was 95 years old, 94 years old at the time,
14 my mother, and how I in my practice have
15 people, constituents, or clients, who come in
16 and are concerned about how their elderly
17 loved ones are being taken care of in nursing
18 homes.

19 In response to that, I was -- started
20 doing research, and I found out that if you
21 place your loved one in a nursing home, they
22 have them sign these boilerplate agreements,
23 which basically says sort of the same
24 agreement you sign when you get your phone
25 which says that if you have a problem with

1 AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, you've got to go to
2 an arbitration panel to determine how much or
3 whether you get a new phone.

4 Well, did you know that an arbitration
5 -- when you sign your loved one or that loved
6 one signed themselves into a nursing home, if
7 they get mistreated in that nursing home, did
8 you realize does the average South Carolinian
9 even know what it means when they sign an
10 arbitration agreement? Well, in response to
11 that, members of Judiciary and Medical
12 Affairs Committee, I have every year since
13 being in this Senate filed legislation to say
14 that I think that it's wrong to the people of
15 South Carolina, and it showed its head during
16 the pandemic because now that we are so-
17 called coming out of the pandemic or that the
18 visitation restrictions have lessened and
19 they've allowed loved ones to come in,
20 there's not a week that I'm not getting
21 complaints that loved ones have gone in and
22 seen that their -- that their mom, grandmom
23 or whatever, have bedsores that you stick
24 your fist in, have had to have amputations
25 because of bed -- we've got to do something

1 for these people. We've got to empower these
2 nursing homes to get adequate staffing. Just
3 like we care about children, we have to care
4 about these people who have given to us.

5 The other thing that I'm seeing in
6 rural South Carolina, and you check in your
7 areas, I'm seeing that hospitals and ICUs
8 during COVID, October of last year, September
9 of last year, guess what they had? If your
10 loved one, you couldn't go see them, if your
11 loved one had to be put in ICU, they used
12 telemedicine. You got taken care of while in
13 ICU the most critical time when you need
14 people, if you needed help and you pressed a
15 button, a television screen came up.

16 Hospitals are cutting costs to -- and hurting
17 our loved ones. People are dying in these
18 smaller areas. We have a responsibility. I
19 have a responsibility to the people of my
20 area to protect them.

21 We need doctors, yes, we do, but we
22 need to have hands-on critical care doctors,
23 doctors who can actually intubate. We know
24 that -- I believe in telemedicine. I think
25 it's an excellent source, but not in an ICU.

1 So I will be filing legislation, as it
2 relates to that because there's no way that a
3 doctor on a screen can tell a nurse or a
4 respiratory therapist or anyone how to put a
5 tube in someone. We have people that are
6 dying in rural South South Carolina. Thank
7 you.

8 SENATE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.
9 Senator from Richland, what purpose do you
10 rise?

11 SENATOR: Unanimous consent.

12 SENATE PRESIDENT: State your request,
13 unanimous consent.

14 SENATOR: To have the Senator from
15 Colleton's words commemorated in the journal.

16 SENATE PRESIDENT: Without objection.

17 Senator from Edgefield, what purpose
18 do you rise?

19 SENATOR: Mr. President, I ask that
20 the Senate stand at ease temporarily,
21 hopefully.

22 SENATE PRESIDENT: Unanimous consent,
23 the Senate stand at ease momentarily,
24 temporarily.

25 (At ease.)

1 SENATE CLERK: Senate, please come to
2 order.

3 SENATE PRESIDENT: We're now -- we're
4 now on the call of the uncontested statewide
5 calendar. Turn to your calendar on page 1,
6 865 of the senators from Horry and others.
7 Senator from Horry, recognized on the bill,
8 page 1. Senate, come to order. Give the
9 Senator your attention. Senator from Horry
10 recognized.

11 SENATOR: Mr. President, unanimous
12 consent request to have the reading clerk --

13 SENATE PRESIDENT: State your request.

14 SENATOR: To have the reading clerk
15 read the bill in its entirety. There are 579
16 pages of that bill. Do I hear an objection?
17 Do I?

18 MULTIPLE VOICES: Objection.

19 SENATE PRESIDENT: Numerous objections
20 I've heard. Numerous objections I've heard.

21 SENATOR: That is the length of the
22 bill though, and you'll be pleased to know, I
23 think, and I may have this flipped, but that
24 the Senate version is 250 pages. And the
25 House has the 300+ pages to theirs. So the

1 Senate, far more efficient in the words of
2 our former great president and judiciary
3 chair, Senator McConnell, brevity is clarity
4 and I hope to be brief here on just a few
5 points of this bill.

6 Yesterday, we heard, again, the
7 incredible explosion of growth across parts
8 of the state, and then the less than great
9 explosion of growth but in fact the
10 effectively retrenchment of. So it's a state
11 of different dynamics. It's a state where
12 you have pockets of growth and you have the
13 opposite, and so as we have labored since
14 July when I gave you all that rendition of
15 work done, we have been looking at the State
16 and meeting with communities, hearing them at
17 these public hearings, and trying to once we
18 adopted the guidelines here and the -- the
19 traditional guidelines of redistricting tried
20 to and I will commend to you or suggest to
21 you in mere moments we will all have a -- the
22 reality of that that this plan meets all and
23 checks all the boxes in terms of what we are
24 charged to do. And so 111,270 people per
25 precinct with the total population of South

1 Carolina at 511,000 or 511,008 people. You
2 look at how these districts are comprised,
3 and, again, you all have heard this term, the
4 -- the deviation, it can't be greater than 5
5 percent. That's not a South Carolina rule.
6 That's a national benchmark. It's not one
7 man, one vote, as we will have in our
8 congressional districts, but it is, again,
9 within that deviation.

10 So as we've looked through the state
11 and as we've all worked and worked in good
12 faith and recognize, again, the give and take
13 that not we as incumbents want, but we as
14 representatives of our communities and the
15 community of interest that they have
16 expressed to us in these public submissions
17 and the public input.

18 Again, we have drawn these maps in a
19 way that we think speaks to what we heard,
20 speaks to the data that we have, and speaks
21 to, again, the growth in this state.
22 Happily, beautifully, I will say I was asked
23 this morning, again, in the -- in the garage,
24 we are not dealing with the congressional
25 maps, are we? And, again, I say, no, and so

1 that is such a relief today. But, again,
2 that conversation and that debate will be
3 coming. It will be in the next month though.

4 So in our areas, I can just tell you
5 Horry County, Senator Hembree and I, Senator
6 Goldfinch, Senator Williams, and Senator Sabb
7 all have a piece of one of the fastest
8 growing counties in the State. We've got
9 now, as of the 2020 census, 351,029 people.
10 Senator Hembree thought he had all of them in
11 his district perhaps. We each think, and we
12 are all growing, of course, without a doubt.

13 The second fastest growing and largest
14 in growth of a population district was mine,
15 but you will not be surprised to know that
16 Senator Johnson had the largest growth in
17 his.

18 And so lots of people to shift around,
19 but for my experience in the Senate when I
20 was first elected in 1843, the -- my district
21 has continued to grow in my -- and I was
22 elected with General Jackson, Senator Darryl
23 Jackson, the General at the time, we served
24 together in the same infantry. But, anyway -
25 -

1 SENATOR JACKSON: Same party.

2 SENATOR: Exact same party, and we're
3 in the same party today, the party of get it
4 done, State Senate, that is our party, but
5 growth here for us has been just incredible.
6 And so my geographic district has gotten
7 smaller and smaller and smaller. And,
8 obviously, some of you have had districts
9 that have grown larger and larger and larger.
10 But our population in our -- dare say -- I
11 would dare say our state is growing, and so
12 when you read about Honda, yesterday,
13 announcing 1,750 jobs going to North Carolina
14 to build a battery plant. Senator Climer
15 was, perhaps, involved with the economic
16 development piece of that trying to get them
17 to South Carolina, he's not listening to me,
18 but 1,750 jobs in the battery business in
19 North Carolina. Again, they're coming -- and
20 so they're coming to our part of the world.
21 I think they're coming more to our part of
22 the world and this state because we do have,
23 again, a very favorable climate. We have
24 four distinct seasons. We have a very
25 favorable natural resource, the mountains,

1 the midlands, the coast. You've got any
2 stripe of geographic activity that you would
3 want. We've got a very favorable, friendly
4 tax environment. Retirees can come here from
5 the northeast. They are paying more in taxes
6 in a year in the northeast than you will pay
7 -- this might be a slight exaggeration, in a
8 lifetime, but literally four to five times
9 the price of owning a home in the northeast
10 compared to what we are charging here in
11 South Carolina. And then it's a favorable
12 business environment as well.

13 And then, finally, I think folks like
14 our politics. Again, Republican or Democrat,
15 they like the fact that the State Senate, the
16 State House, is able to work together to get
17 things done. And so it's an attractive
18 place. It continues and will continue to be
19 an attractive place, as we continue to
20 attract more and more folks to our state. So
21 whether it's industry in the upstate, whether
22 it's industry in the midlands, again, we've
23 celebrated a lot of accomplishments in terms
24 of that business environment lately. And I
25 hope and I trust that we will continue to.

1 We're going to grow in spite of ourselves, if
2 we don't mess it up, but in terms of this
3 reapportionment plan, again, as we have
4 looked across and as we worked through the --
5 sometimes folks would consider it a tough
6 business, sharp elbow-trading process of
7 redistricting. That's not been the case
8 here, and we have heard, literally yesterday,
9 two folks from Sumter, Senator McElveen, in
10 the full committee yesterday, Mr. Oden
11 (phonetic) and Ms. Eadens (phonetic) --
12 Eadens, I think her name is, who came to
13 Sumter and spoke. The subcommittee members
14 hard them. They were at the full committee
15 yesterday, and they just thanked our staff.
16 They thanked me for how we conducted our
17 business and how after yesterday's progress a
18 21:1 vote showed that we could work together.

19 That's been the spirit of this, and so
20 as we have worked through, it's an attractive
21 thing to the folks looking outside. There
22 may have been some hiccups or fits and
23 starts, but it has just been a matter of a
24 great working relationship with our staff,
25 our lawyers. Yesterday I pointed out Mr.

1 Morgan, the PhD candidate, he was first
2 revealed to me yesterday. He's the Will
3 Roberts and Breedon Johns cartographer. He's
4 like a judge's judge or a lawyer's lawyer.
5 He's the guy behind the curtain working on a
6 PhD who has helped create the clearest
7 message and the clearest understanding
8 between each of you and our staff, as we work
9 through these plans.

10 So very briefly, again, you know our
11 sub-committee members, Senators Campsen,
12 Senators Young, Saab, Senator Marjie Bright
13 Matthews, Senator Talley, Senator Harpotlian
14 all have worked in a bipartisan fashion to
15 create an open and a fair and, again, all
16 buyers, all players at the table, working in
17 good faith to try to create what we hope that
18 in almost what 2.5 years from now we will be
19 running on in the 2024 cycle. Again, for all
20 of us or those of us who decide to run again.

21 So in terms of compactness, in terms
22 of the appearance, in terms of the areas that
23 meld both the growth, and the no-growth area,
24 again, we've tried to -- to saddle folks
25 that, again, share a community of interest,

1 particularly in mine.

2 We heard in Conway at the Horry-
3 Georgetown Technical College, the Conway
4 campus, very distinct comments come to your
5 part in a minute, Senator Shealy, but we
6 heard very distinctly the hub between Conway
7 and Myrtle Beach, and you might have heard
8 that mentioned yesterday. That in terms of
9 what we heard from a cultural, from a
10 historic, from an economic standpoint, from a
11 medical standpoint, from a collegiate
12 standpoint, that corridor between those two,
13 incredible lifeline that each has to each
14 other, with work perhaps on one side, living
15 on the other, or vice versa, the incredible
16 attachment and identity that Conway has with
17 Myrtle Beach. And so our plan in response to
18 that overwhelming public input was to keep
19 them together as, again, similar communities
20 of interest.

21 They share a commonality. Go down to
22 the coast, Senator Margie Bright Matthews'
23 area. We heard in Walterboro, their
24 technical college, a very similar theme.
25 Keep our area together. Keep our area

1 together. Folks from Walterboro, folks from
2 Colleton, we heard a number of people, again,
3 expressing the sentiment. Recently, folks --
4 the mayor and the entire city or town
5 population of Pillion (phonetic) attended a
6 hearing. And their -- it was standing room
7 only. We were offered to give up seats.
8 They would give us a bag of popcorn or a bag
9 of boiled peanuts. I've not seen a bag of
10 boiled peanuts yet, but there is an offer of
11 a chocolate chip cookie.

12 But the mayor said to anyone that
13 would give up their seat, they would give
14 them boiled peanuts. It was boiled peanut
15 day or peanut festival or something the next
16 few days, but, again, an example of putting
17 people, putting communities together in a way
18 that, again, we think best represents our
19 charge on this subcommittee.

20 And so you now have before us a bill
21 that is up for second reading. we have the
22 house bill, as well, that, again, I hope to
23 give second reading today. My goal is second
24 on both of these, and then third tomorrow
25 with us hopefully on a perfunctory basis, not

1 physically being here, not requiring the
2 taxpayers of South Carolina to pay us to show
3 up for a simple vote, I hope we get there
4 today, but a plan that, again, represents the
5 best efforts by and between Democrat, by and
6 between, again, all parties, that is the best
7 efforts that we have that we think satisfies
8 the legal and the constitutional mandates,
9 and conforms with the policy that we have
10 adopted in our guidelines, our traditional
11 redistricting principle guidelines.

12 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator from
13 Charleston, what purpose do you rise?

14 SENATOR: Senator would yield?

15 SENATE PRESIDENT: For a question?
16 For a question?

17 SENATOR: Senator, you men- --

18 SENATE PRESIDENT: Senator, yield for
19 a question?

20 SENATOR: Gladly.

21 SENATOR: Senator, you mentioned input
22 from a meeting in Conway in your part of the
23 state in Horry County and how meaningful that
24 was to receive input from -- directly from
25 the voters and from any groups that are

1 interested. Could you share with the body
2 how many meetings we had around the State and
3 perhaps some of the areas? We had so many
4 you may not be able to remember all of them,
5 but --

6 SENATOR: Well, the best person to
7 answer that question, not only in memory but
8 in physical appearance at these ten meetings,
9 would be Senator Sabb, who, again, earned the
10 most miles traveled in one subcommittee
11 subject across the state. But we had ten and
12 it's an odd thing, but incredibly even in
13 Greenville, even in Spartanburg, even in
14 Aiken, we heard one refrain, and that was
15 they liked their Senate district to extend
16 from North Carolina to Georgia, and we kept
17 saying, well, what district are you talking
18 about? And they said, you know, the coastal
19 district that Senator Campsen represents in
20 the State of South Carolina. And I said, no,
21 no, no, you mean the one that extends from
22 Maine to Key West, and they said --

23 SENATOR: I corrected you it's Dry
24 Tortuga, Florida, actually, which is further
25 south.

1 SENATOR: I didn't make that
2 subcommittee meeting, but, yeah, as you
3 reflect --

4 SENATOR: But, but, but, a community
5 of interest, we got a lot of input that that
6 is a community of interest, didn't we,
7 Senator?

8 SENATOR: Across the State, so whether
9 the coast, whether the midlands, whether
10 upstate, again, we had at every geographic
11 region that similar input, and that was
12 invaluable to us. Again, Zoom -- thank the
13 Lord for Zoom that allowed some of us who
14 couldn't go to each one of them.
15 Fortunately, I made the majority of them,
16 more than the majority. But Florence, Horry,
17 Sumter, Greenville, Columbia, Aiken,
18 Walterboro -- no Beaufort -- where was it,
19 Beaufort or --

20 SENATOR: Beaufort.

21 SENATOR: Beaufort -- I'm missing
22 somewhere, Orangeburg. How many more? Two
23 more? But every geographic region of the
24 state and there were ten of them, including
25 Columbia's, and Conway, yeah, so every area

1 we went to them. We didn't only allow them
2 to appear in person. We allowed them to
3 appear via Zoom, and so a tremendous
4 outpouring, and I want to comment on Sumter.
5 Perhaps they had the most -- the second
6 largest. Beaufort, maybe the largest crowd,
7 maybe close behind Spartanburg, but, again,
8 just any stripe of person, any stripe of age
9 a person. We had a young 13-year-old I think
10 speak to us in Sumter, the daughter of a --
11 of a single mom, and so we heard from her.
12 And so just a unique opportunity to hear from
13 folks about what we're doing right now.

14 SENATOR: Senator, up front we adopted
15 some principles, some reapportionment
16 principles that would guide us along the way,
17 and we kept going back to those principles
18 throughout the process in reflecting upon
19 whether, you know, we were adhering to those,
20 did we not, Senator?

21 SENATOR: That's right, and, again,
22 it's -- it's not just what we might want to
23 do but their been there done that in terms of
24 how traditional principles are established
25 and whether or not we abide by them. But,

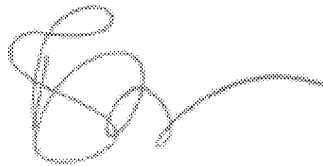
1 again, you know them, you've heard it. It's
2 like a mantra of what we do, but federal law,
3 of course, population equality, voting
4 rights, avoidance of racial gerrymandering,
5 then continuity, contiguity as well,
6 communities of interest, constituent
7 consistency, the goal of minimizing division
8 of county borders and cities and towns,
9 minimizing the divisions of voting precincts.
10 We call those VPDs, and then compactness, and
11 then, again, the data, which is the numbers
12 that we have, which dictates about 111,000
13 per district in the -- in the -- of the 46 of
14 us. So, yeah, those -- so that was -- those
15 were our lens. Anything outside of that
16 construct was not relevant. Again, we had to
17 abide by these, and what we've heard and what
18 we've --

19 [AUDIO ENDED ABRUPTLY AT 84:10]

CERTIFICATE

I, Trisha Ruckart, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and transcribed the foregoing recorded proceedings and that the transcript is a true record, to the best of my ability.

DATED this 21st day of December, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TRISHA RUCKART', written over a horizontal line.

TRISHA RUCKART, CVR-CM